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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1998 (AIPA).

Application Number	10/027071
Filing Date	12/20/2001
First Named Inventor	Joseph R. Ward
Group Art Unit	1725
Examiner Name	Kevin P. Kerns
Attorney Docket Number	D5216

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/28) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50082 (Aug. 10, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14665 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for \_\_\_\_\_  
period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(f) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☒ **Fees** The RCE (as under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to  
Deposit Account No. 140603

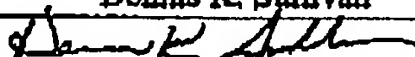
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.138 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2036 enclosed)

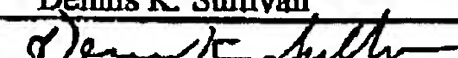
FEE VALUE ACCOUNTABILITY	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO.	
14	0603
1801	770.
1251	110.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print)	Dennis K. Sullivan	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	26,510
Signature		Date	February 12, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print)	Dennis K. Sullivan	Date	February 12, 2004
Signature			

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02 PAGE 17 \* RCVD AT 2/12/2004 1:57:41 PM (Eastern Standard Time) \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/3 \* DNIS:8729306 \* CSID:630 753 3982 \* DURATION (mm-ss):02-50